

Annual Work Programme for grants in the Environment Policy Area
LIFE + programme

REVISION FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THE LIFE + PROGRAMME

Following the final adoption and entry into force on 13 June of Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the LIFE + Programme, the following actions have been added to the annual work programme for grants under the LIFE + programme as published on 31 May 2007.

1. Call for proposals – projects to be supported through action grants under "Nature and biodiversity", "Environment policy and governance" and "Information and Communication"
2. Call for proposals - Peer review of national Sustainable Development strategies
3. Restricted call for proposals – (organised by Eurostat)
4. Grant to be awarded without a call for proposals to a body with a de jure / de facto monopoly – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

1 CALL FOR PROPOSALS – PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH ACTION GRANTS UNDER "NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY", "ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE" AND "INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION"

1.1 Introduction.

1.1.1 Budget line.

07 03 07 - LIFE+ (Financial Instrument for the Environment — 2007 to 2013)

1.1.2 Basic Act.

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) (OJ L 149 of 9 June 2007, p.1).

1.2 Objectives of the call for proposals

The general objective of the LIFE+ is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of Community environmental policy and legislation, including the integration of the environment into other policies, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

In particular, LIFE+ supports the implementation of the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme, including the thematic strategies, and finances measures and projects with European added value in Member States.

The call for proposals will cover all three components of the programme :

- LIFE + Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE + Environment policy and governance
- LIFE + Information and Communication

LIFE+ seeks funding complementarity with other Community financial instruments as set out in article 9 of the Regulation. To this end LIFE+ will not finance projects that fall within the eligibility criteria and main scope of other Community financial instruments; nor will LIFE+ finance projects that receive assistance for the same purpose from these programmes.

The Commission shall have special regard to transnational projects when transnational cooperation is essential to guarantee environmental protection, in particular species protection, and shall endeavour to ensure that at least 15 % of the budgetary resources are allocated to transnational projects.

1.3 Expected results of actions to be supported

Funded projects are expected to contribute to the implementation of the objectives set out in the Sixth Environmental Action Programme and related Thematic Strategies. The overall expected result is to increase and promote sustainable development at EU-level as well as at national and regional level.

More specifically the expected results for each of the three components are:

A) LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity:

To support the setting up of the EU network of protected areas (Natura 2000) and to protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, and wild flora and fauna. In addition to aim at halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, in the European Union by 2010 in accordance with the Commission communication COM (2006) 216 of 22/05/2006 "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond – sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being."

B) LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance:

To contribute directly to the Lisbon process with respect to sustainable development: this will be achieved by testing and transferring new environmental techniques and processes. Particular emphasis will be given to the Sixth Environmental Action Programme and related Thematic Strategies. It is expected that the projects financed will contribute to the objectives set out by the programme and notably in areas such as climate change, water, air, soil, urban environmental, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests and innovation.

C) LIFE+ Information and Communication:

To ensure regular and effective information flow in order to provide that basis for policy decisions on the environment, and to make information on the state and trends of the environment accessible to citizens.

1.4 Specific targets /actions/ themes for 2007:

The call for proposals will cover the following themes from the list of multi-annual objectives set out in Annex II to the LIFE + Regulation :

A) Nature and Biodiversity

1. To protect, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU by 2010.

B) Environment Policy and Governance

2. Climate change: To stabilise green house gas concentration at a level that prevents global warming above 2°C;
3. Water: To contribute to enhanced water quality by developing cost-effective measures to achieve good ecological status in view of developing the first river basin management plan under Directive 2000/60/EC (Water framework directive) by 2009;
4. Air: To achieve levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment;
5. Soil: To protect and ensure the sustainable use of soil by preserving soil functions, preventing threats to soil, mitigating their effects and restoring degraded soils;
6. Urban environment: To contribute to improving the environmental performance of Europe's urban areas;
7. Noise: to contribute to policy development and implementation on environmental noise;

8. Chemicals: to improve the protection of the environment and health from risks posed by chemicals by 2020 by implementing chemicals legislation, in particular Regulation n° 1907/2006 (REACH) and the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides;
9. Environment and health: To develop the information base for policy on the environment and health (the Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010);
10. Natural resources and waste: To develop and implement policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste, and to improve the environmental performance of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling; To contribute to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste;
11. Forests: To provide, especially through an EU coordination network, a concise and comprehensive basis for policy relevant information on forests in relation to climate change (impact on forests ecosystems, mitigation, substitution effects), biodiversity (baseline information and protected forest areas), forest fires, forest conditions and the protective functions of forests (water, soil and infrastructure) as well as contributing to the protection of forests against fires;
12. Innovation: To contribute to developing and demonstrating innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments to assist in the implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP)
13. Strategic approaches: To promote the effective implementation and enforcement of Community environmental legislation and improve the knowledge base for environmental policy; To ensure more efficient and coherent policies; To improve the environmental performance of SMEs; To provide the tools to develop environmental policy and legislation;

C) Information and Communication

16. Ensuring regular and effective information flow to provide the basis for policy decision on the environment, and to provide accessible information to citizens on the state and trends of the environment.

1.5 Eligibility criteria.

In addition to compliance with the technical/administrative requirements for submitting a request for funding as will be detailed in the instructions given in the call for proposals, guidelines and application forms attention is drawn to the following :

- applicants must submit their proposals to the national competent authority of (one of) the EU Member state(s) where the applicant is registered. The national competent authority will then forward the LIFE+ project proposals to the Commission; the list of national competent authorities will be specified in the call for proposals.
- applicants and their partners must be public or private bodies and institutions legally registered in the EU Member States.

1.6 Selection criteria.

- Operational capacity of the applicant and partners: professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action ;

- Financial capacity : stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain his activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.
- projects to be co-financed must take place within the territory of the European Union.
- projects must fall within the scope of the one three strands of the LIFE + Programme (Nature and Biodiversity, Environment policy and governance and Information and Communication). For each of the three strands, the call for proposals will contain further selection criteria for the proposed action. The most important of these relate to:
 - the geographic scope of the project (within EU except for LIFE+ Nature which is limited to the continental territory of the EU);
 - the project's links to relevant legislation (e.g. Birds' and Habitats' Directives; Communication on Halting the loss of Biodiversity; Directives connected to the principal objectives set out in annex II of the Regulation).

1.7 Award criteria.

The award criteria are:

- Technical coherence and quality: proposal should be clear, detailed, coherent, realistic and feasible in terms of actions, timetable, budget and value for money.
- Financial coherence and quality of the proposal: consistency with the technical actions; compliance with the rules set out in the LIFE+ application guide, the Common Provisions for LIFE+ projects and the LIFE+ Regulation, transparency, coherence, cost-efficiency, value for money;
- Contribution to the general objectives of LIFE+: importance of the problem targeted, significance of solution, scope of application contribution to the integration of the environment into other policies and/or to sustainable development;
- Added value in terms of best-practice, innovation, demonstration, forest monitoring etc.;
- Ensuring complementarity and optimal use of the EC funding;
- EU added value in terms of multi-national character of the proposal;
- National added value based on comments made by the LIFE+ national authority.

Once a list has been established based on the above award criteria, projects will be allocated to Member States in accordance with indicative national financial allocations based on the criteria defined in article 6.2 of the LIFE + Regulation.

The indicative national allocations for 2007 based on these criteria¹ are as follows:

Country	Indicative amount (€m)	Country	Indicative amount (€m)	Country	Indicative amount (€m)
AT	3.509	FI	6.696	MT	2.148
BE	3.858	FR	16.357	NL	5.996
BU	4.025	GR	6.356	PL	8.858
CY	2.000	HU	4.673	PT	5.236
CZ	3.710	IE	2.944	RO	8.139
DE	21.762	IT	16.457	SE	7.685

¹ The indicative national allocations are based on criteria available to the Commission on 12 June 2007 which may be subject to limited change prior to the publication of the call for proposals.

DK	4.591	LT	2.574	SI	4.029
EE	3.098	LU	2.044	SK	2.857
ES	20.028	LV	2.500	UK	14.871

Transnational projects shall count proportionately towards the indicative national allocations of the Member States involved.

In accordance with article 6.8 of the LIFE + Regulation, and given the indicative nature of the above allocations, funds not used within an indicative national allocation may be allocated to projects submitted by other Member States which score more highly on the basis of the award criteria. Given this, the amounts set out in the above table are merely indicative and their attainment relies on sufficient quality projects coming from all the Member States.

1.8 Indicative timetable for call for proposals:

Timing of call for proposals :	
publication date	Mid-September 2007
closing date for sending proposals to the national competent authorities	The dates for submission of projects to national authorities will be specified for each country in the call for proposals
closing date for national authorities to send proposals to the Commission	15/01/2008
Information to unsuccessful applicants based on eligibility and selection criteria	April-May 2008
Award decision and information of unsuccessful applicants based on award criteria	October 2008
Signature of grant agreements	November – December 2008

1.9 Indicative budget and expected number of projects to be selected:

Strand	Indicative Budget	Indicative number of projects to be selected
A) Nature and Biodiversity	Minimum EUR 93.500.000	80-130
B & C) Environmental policy and governance, information and communication	Maximum EUR 93 500 000	80-130
TOTAL	EUR 187 000 000	160 - 260

1.10 Maximum rate of co-financing.

Strand	Maximum rate of cofinancing
A) Nature and Biodiversity	The general financing rate is of maximum 50% of eligible costs.

	This rate may be raised up to maximum 75% of eligible costs for projects targeting priority habitats and species within the meaning of Directive 92/43/EEC or the species of birds considered as priority for funding under LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity by the committee set up pursuant to Article 16 of Directive 79/409/EEC.
B) Environmental policy and governance, information and communication	The general financing rate is maximum 50% of eligible costs. The EU cofinancing rate shall be reduced to maximum 30% of the eligible costs for demonstration projects which generate substantial net revenue (as will be defined in the call for proposals)
C) Environmental policy and governance, information and communication	The general financing rate is maximum 50% of eligible costs.

1.11 Additional information

All information on the call for proposals will be published on the following website :

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

2 CALL FOR PROPOSALS - PEER REVIEW OF NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

2.1 Introduction.

2.1.1 Budget line:

07 03 07 - LIFE+ (Financial Instrument for the Environment — 2007 to 2013)

2.1.2 Basic Act

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) (OJ L 149 of 9 June 2007, p.1)

2.2 Objectives of the call for proposals

The objectives of the call for proposals are :

- Support the peer review of National Sustainable Development Strategies in the EU
- Facilitate the identification, exchange and dissemination of good practice among MS & mutual learning
- Enhance the synergies between EU & national strategies.

Community co-funding will be provided for up to 50% of eligible costs, with a maximum of € 100 000 per project to national bodies in the Member States that for peer-review projects, provided that it met with a number of conditions:

- follow a common methodology (as defined in handbook finalised in 2005),
- focus – in part - on the links between national and EU dimension,
- accept/commit to dissemination of results through publication / presentation in workshop
- Guarantee high-level political commitment to the review.

2.3 Expected results of actions to be supported

The supported projects should result in :

- a panel of “external” reviewers consisting of 2 other Member State + 1 or 2 non EU countries (including one G-77 or neighbouring country) + (optional) EU Commission or EEA. The panel would steer the work and bring in their national experience. Typically 3-4 meetings.
- a published report and a presentation at conference / workshop.

2.4 Target beneficiaries.

National authorities in charge of the National Sustainable Development Strategies in Member States.

2.5 Eligibility criteria

- Compliance with the technical/administrative requirements for submitting a request for funding as will be detailed in the instructions given in the call for proposals, guidelines and application forms.
- Participation in the call for proposals is restricted to national authorities in charge of the National Sustainable Development Strategies in EU Member States.

2.6 Selection criteria

- Financial capacity: stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity: professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

2.7 Award criteria

- extent to which the proposed action and the results envisaged address the objectives and priorities described in section 2.3.2 and 2.3.3,
- technical feasibility of the project : clarity of description of the proposed project, the methodology to be employed for its realisation and time schedule for its implementation,
- geographical coverage of the project
- Cost effectiveness and value for money ;
- impact and dissemination of the results envisaged; the quality of the operation's evaluation and follow-up mechanisms.

2.8 Indicative timetable and maximum rate of co-financing

Finance rate :	Maximum 50 % of eligible cost. Maximum financing per project is EUR 100.000
Timing of call for proposals :	
publication date	September 2007
closing date	End October 2007
Signature of grant agreements and information of unsuccessful applicants	December 2007

2.9 Indicative budget and expected number of projects to be selected.

Financing for 2 to 3 projects, for a total available budget of EUR 200.000.

2.10 Additional information.

All information on the call for proposals will be published on the following website :

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm

3 RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS - ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS AND SERVICES SECTOR

3.1 Introduction.

3.1.1 Budget line:

07 03 07 - LIFE+ (Financial Instrument for the Environment — 2007 to 2013)

3.1.2 Basic Act

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) (OJ L 149 of 9 June 2007, p.1)

3.2 Objectives of the call for proposals

This restricted call for proposals will be implemented by EUROSTAT.

There are a few countries in the EU that has developed statistics on environmental industry basing their work on the existing 1999 manual. During their work they have experienced difficulties with interpreting the manual and have all developed their own ideas on how to solve these issues. For any future data collection it is indispensable to assure comparability and harmonised statistics.

In order to develop future statistics at a European level data has to be comparable and harmonised. As a first step in this direction Eurostat has created a task force: the group of experts from the Member States are developing a standard table for the collection of statistics and a compilation guide that will explain how to fill in the tables and how to handle the data compilation.

Objective: application of the Eurostat methodology and data collection.

The objective of the call for proposals is to identify and support relevant pilot projects presented at EU-27 level. These projects have to be related to the list of areas defined by the European Strategy on Environmental Accounts and 2007 Eurostat Statistical Work Programme.

The next step in the process of gathering statistics at a European level is for the individual countries to develop appropriate information and evaluate their possibilities of regular compilation of environmental industry. This would serve as a basis for future analysis and recommendations on environmental industry based on harmonised comparable statistics.

3.3 Expected results of actions to be supported

This first round of evaluations and pilot studies would serve as a good ground to establish the overall framework on environmental industry. However considering the complexity of the area and the different components that the environmental industry consists of, further in-depth studies would pave the way for reliable quality assured statistics. The result from this exercise

would serve as guidelines for other countries in the progress of developing their statistics in this field.

3.4 Target beneficiaries.

Actions relating to Environmental Goods and Services sector will be implemented through a restricted call for proposals (ESS = European Statistical System). Target beneficiaries are the National Statistical Institutes of the European Statistical System of EU Member States

3.5 Eligibility criteria

In addition to formal criteria for presentation of applications as will be specified in the call for proposals, the following eligibility criteria will apply :

- Applicants must be National Statistical Institutes of the European Statistical System of EU Member States ;
- The applicant must submit the signed solemn declaration (included in the application form) ;
- Applications submitted by intermediaries will be excluded.

3.6 Selection criteria

The applicant must have the necessary professional skills and qualifications and the financial capacity to carry out the proposed action, as evidenced by the following supporting document(s):

- Annual accounts/balance sheet of the last financial year.
- Curriculum vitae of each person involved in the project, or at least the curriculum vitae of the project manager. The Curriculum vitae must show at least a 2-years experience in environmental accounts.

3.7 Award criteria

For the methodological part of the pilot studies:

On the basis of the following criteria a maximum of 10 evaluation points (= fully/excellent), and a minimum is 1 point (= not at all/weak) will be allocated per proposal:

- Feasibility of the project, relevance in relation to objectives of action, cost effectiveness (40%)
- quality of the proposed work programme, methodology and clarity of work schedule and expected results (60%)

3.8 Indicative timetable and maximum rate of co-financing

Finance rate :	Max 50 % co-financing of the eligible costs
Timing of call for proposals :	September 2007
publication date	September 2007
closing date	October 2007
finalisation date for the call	December 2007

3.9 Indicative budget and expected number of projects to be selected.

The indicative budget for this call for proposals is of EUR 250.000.

3.10 Additional information.

All information on the call for proposals will be published on the following website :

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

4 GRANT TO BE AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO A BODY WITH A DE JURE / DE FACTO MONOPOLY

4.1 Beneficiary

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

4.2 Legal basis:

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) (OJ L 149 of 9 June 2007, p.1)

4.3 Budget amount: €150 000

4.4 Objective of the action/project:

The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC obliges Member States to cooperation within shared river basins and the joint elaboration of monitoring programmes and river basin management plans. The action will provide a crucial contribution within the Danube river basin for implementing the Directive, by updating and expanding the monitoring basis for waters in the basin, including the intercalibration process, and contribute to elaboration of the measures for the river basin management plan due under the Directive by December 2009.

4.5 Expected results:

Three key outputs: Data assessment and evaluation of the Joint Danube Survey; Intercalibration; Danube Delta

The second Joint Danube Survey will provide a comprehensive monitoring exercise of the key surface waters of the Danube and its tributaries, and update and expand the monitoring basis. Assessment and evaluation of the data gathered will be an indispensable precondition for further moving to the river basin management plan due by December 2009. Intercalibration will deliver on the obligations of article V.1.4.1 of the Water Framework Directive, i.e. making the biological monitoring results comparable between Member States. Work on the Danube Delta will contribute to elaboration of the measures required under the Water Framework Directive, at the crucial interface between water protection, protection of habitats and protection of the marine environment, based on a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed within the ICPDR on 15 June 2007.

4.6 Justification for the de jure / de facto monopoly of the beneficiary:

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is the Executive Body implementing the Danube River Protection Convention which all riparian countries and the EU have ratified. The ICPDR deals with protection of the Danube river basin against pollution and other environmental impacts which are closely related to, and driven by, EU water policy. The working responsibility of the ICPDR foreseen also covers not only the main stream of the Danube, but – as foreseen in the Water Framework Directive – the whole catchment. EU Member States are under obligation to endeavour appropriate

coordination with Third Countries in shared river basins (article 3(5) Water Framework Directive). The ICPDR is the only international organisation in the region with these responsibilities, and has been entrusted by Contracting Parties including the EU the role of the operational platform for implementing the Water Framework Directive.

4.7 Implementation:

Finance rate (max) :	50 % co-financing of the eligible costs.
Calendar for concluding the grant agreement	September 2007